

## Summary of Dispersant Data Monitoring and Web Posting June 28, 2010

### Background:

Samples analyzed for dispersant constituents collected on May 21, 22, & 23 have been published to the web page. No analytical results for dispersant compound samples taken after May 23 have been validated by the Regions, therefore, no additional samples have been published. These sample results have been delayed because this package of data is currently undergoing the Level IV validation to ensure the quality of the data. All subsequent packages will undergo Level II validation.

As analyses proceeded with these initial samples, EPA (Regions 4, 6 and HQ) determined that the methods used were not sensitive enough. A workgroup was formed in early June to develop improved or new methods for dispersant constituents, including the surfactant. Dispersant compounds continue to be part of the sample and analysis plan in Region 4 and Region 6. Of the 24 dispersant samples posted to-date, all resulted in 'no detect' values. There have been some preliminary analyses performed, as part of methods development, using the new methods, however routine analysis using these methods will not begin until early July.

### Publishing Past Data - Immediate Actions Planned:

- **Region 6** expects to provide the HQ Environmental Unit (EU) with dispersant data from samples collected and analyzed in May as early as Monday or Tuesday (June 28 or 29). Once received by the EOC Water Desk, the data will be reviewed and compared against the OW benchmarks. Early next week, OW will need to decide if or how such data should be posted on the website given what we know regarding concerns with the method's limit of detection.
- **Region 4** reported that on June 17, EPA contract laboratories were provided with the EPA recommended analytical methods to modify their analysis procedures of future samples. On June 23, the laboratories began analysis of dispersant samples using these new methods. Region 4 expects to see dispersant results from the laboratory in 6 to 10 days (July 2 – July 6). The HQ EU and Water Desk expect to receive these data for review and benchmark analysis sometime after this date.
- New methods will be available to the regions to provide to contract laboratories in early July. The results from samples analyzed with these methods will be available for review and publishing to the web in late July. More exact timing will be provided as it is available.

### Improving Future Dispersant Data Quality

- EPA has identified 5 dispersant compounds for analysis, including a dispersant surfactant. EPA has either developed or refined analytical methods for all of these dispersant compounds. One issue remaining is to what laboratories will EPA send dispersant samples, given the specialized capability and capacity that is needed to analyze for these samples. To be discussed June 30<sup>th</sup>.